

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Upon entry of this amendment, new claim 14 will be pending for the Examiner's consideration, claims 1-13 having been cancelled herein. New claim 14, which has been added to add clarity to the claimed invention, recites a spherical microcapsule with certain features, including, for example, a diameter of from 5 μm to 15 μm and a microcapsule that, when observed using a fluorescent microscope, emits fluorescence owing to pyranine as the inclusion compound. Support for these two features can be found in Example 2 of the specification, and particularly on page 14, lines 9-12. Most of the remaining features were present in the canceled claims. However, applicants note the section of the specification on page 6, lines 16-19, which, although under the category of "fine spherical particle," still provides support for "the uniform molecular orientation" feature which is present in the microcapsule of the claimed invention. Applicants also note that support for the concept of a microcapsule encapsulating a core substance can be found in the specification from page 8, line 25 to page 9, line 2.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The rejection of claims 1-13 under Section 112, first paragraph, has been obviated by the cancellation of those claims. Applicants respectfully submit that a similar rejection should not apply to claim 14, as it does not contain the limitations at issue in the initial rejection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of claims 1-13 as obvious over U.S. 6,136,956 to Kogiso et al. or JP-B-3012932, also to Kogiso (both discussed collectively as "Kogiso") has been obviated by the cancellation of those claims. Applicants respectfully submit that a similar rejection should not apply to claim 14, since the Kogiso references do not teach or suggest several claim limitations, including, for example, a spherical microcapsule comprising a fine spherical body with a particle diameter of from 5 μm to 15 μm . Nor does Kogiso teach or suggest a microcapsule that, when observed using a fluorescent microscope, emits fluorescence owing to pyranine as the inclusion compound.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The rejection of claims 1-13 under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated by the cancellation of those claims. Applicants respectfully submit that a similar rejection should not apply to claim 14, for the reasons that follow. Applicants note that the term "uniform molecular orientation," as used to describe the spherical microcapsule, is disclosed in the specification on page 6, lines 16-19 and in Figure 2. Applicants also note that the "hydrophilic core substance" and the "substrate" are separately discussed and characterized in the specification on page 9 at lines 19-22 and lines 22-26, respectively.

Reconsideration with allowance is thus requested.

No additional fees are believed to be required for this submission. Should any fees be required, however, please charge those fees to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP deposit account no. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 20, 2007

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